

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An odontological device for guiding an occlusion of an individual, said device comprising:

- a generally U-shaped arch made of flexible material and having a lower surface on the lower jaw side and an upper surface on the upper jaw side, in both of which there are concaves for receiving the individual's teeth, the bottoms of the concaves forming an isthmus which separates the concaves from one another,

wherein

- the isthmus includes blanks intended for individual teeth and uniform, continuous recesses for at least two teeth to guide the teeth in a desired direction, and

- the lower jaw side surface has a lower wing constricting a tongue at least sideways and being shaped to further placement of the device in an individual's mouth, said lower wing being arranged to extend vertically to essentially follow the shape of the lower side jaw arch and reach the immediate proximity of the base of the mouth cavity.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An odontological device according to claim 1, wherein said recesses contain uniform compartments that begin from the second premolar and continue towards the molars at least partly to the area where the second permanent molar will erupt.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An odontological device according to claim 2, wherein the side walls of said uniform compartments are formed by outer and inner walls, respectively, which have essentially straight walls.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 2, wherein said compartments are shaped ~~like~~ to form continuous troughs, and the troughs are open from the molar side end.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An odontological device according of claim 1, wherein said recesses contain uniform recesses limited to the area of the front teeth, and the surface walls of the recesses are essentially smooth.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 1, wherein said concaves have ~~their own~~ blanks of their own for canine teeth and the first premolars.
7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An odontological device according to claim 1, wherein said isthmus separating the concaves is thicker at least in the area of the molars than in the area of the front teeth.
8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An odontological device according to claim 7, wherein said isthmus thickness changes stepwise at the point between the premolars.
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 7, wherein said isthmus is essentially even in such a way that ~~its~~ the thickness of the isthmus in the narrower area is essentially in fixed range of approximately 1 to 10 mm and 3-13 mm, respectively, in the thicker area.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 1, wherein the walls of the concaves are formed by the outer walls on the labial side or on the buccal side, respectively, and by the inner walls on the opposite sides of the concaves on the lingual side, the inner wall on the lower jaw side surface being continued so that ~~it~~ the inner wall is at least essentially aligned downwards to the wall surface in such a way that ~~it~~ the inner wall extends lower than the corresponding outer wall to form said lower wing.
- 11-12. (CANCELLED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 10, wherein the downwards dimension of the ~~mentioned~~ lower wing has been reduced at the point of the ligament of the tongue.
14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 13, wherein said lower wing extends approximately at the point of the first molar to a distance of 14 mm as a maximum of the down side surface of said isthmus, ~~in which case and wherein~~ said distance is approx. 3 to 6 mm smaller in the area of the ligament of the tongue.
15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 10, wherein the outer wall on the upper jaw side surface has been at least partially continued upwards at least essentially aligned upwards to the wall surface in such a way that ~~it~~ said outer wall extends above the gum line.
16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 15, wherein said upper side outer wall extends essentially above the gum line at least in the area of the first and the second tooth, ~~and preferably also in the area of the third and fourth tooth~~.
17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 15, wherein said upper outer wall extends at ~~its~~ the highest point of the outer wall to approx. 10 mm from the distance of the upper side surface of said isthmus.
18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An odontological device according to claim 1, wherein when the upper side arch, measured essentially along the base of the arch and between the second and third tooth, is approx. 32 mm, the length of ~~the~~ a compartment starting from the second premolar and terminating in an open end is 22 mm on the upper side and 24 mm on the lower side, and correspondingly, when the length of ~~the mentioned~~ said arch is 37 mm, the length of the compartment is 24 mm on the upper side and 27 mm on the lower side.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An odontological series of devices, containing a series of essentially conformal devices of different sizes, wherein the devices correspond to an odontological device according to claim 1.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A series of devices according to claim 19, wherein the upper side arch of a device in the series, measured along the base of the arch and between the second and third tooth, is less than about 26 mm, the maximum distance of the lower wing lower edge to the equivalent point on the surface of the isthmus between the masticating surfaces is approximately 8 to 10 mm, and when ~~the mentioned said~~ arch is over 26 mm said maximum distance is about 14 mm.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An odontological device~~ A series of devices according to claim 19, wherein when the upper side arch of a device in the series, measured essentially along the base of the arch and between the second and third tooth, is approx. 32 mm, the length of ~~the mentioned a~~ compartment starting from the second premolar and terminating in an open end is 22 mm on the upper side and 24 mm on the lower side, and correspondingly, when the length of ~~the mentioned said~~ arch is 37 mm, the length of the compartment is 24 mm on the upper side and 27 mm on the lower side.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~device~~ series of devices according to claim 19, wherein in the smallest device in of the series, has the mentioned arch length of said arch of is less than 26 mm, and in the largest device of the series 36 mm as a minimum, preferably at least of approx. 38 mm.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A device series of devices according to claim 19, wherein the length of the smallest device in the series, measured from the wall on the lingual side of the front teeth to the line connecting the open ends of the molar areas, is essentially less than 40 mm and the upper side front wall at least 5 mm high.

24. (WITHDRAWN) A method in orthodontics for selecting an occlusion guidance appliance device, according to which method

- at least one characteristic measurement is defined for an individual's teeth, and
- based on this measurement an appropriate device is selected for that individual, comprising the steps of:
 - measuring the length of the upper jaw side dental arch from the individual's teeth between the left and right hand side front and middle teeth or two middle teeth, and
 - choosing, based on the measurement without taking separately into consideration the developmental phase of the teeth, a suitable occlusion guidance appliance devices from one of the occlusion guidance appliance device series according to claim 19, which contains several essentially conformal and different-sized occlusion guidance appliance devices.

25. (WITHDRAWN) A method according to claim 24, wherein the measurement of the dental arch is taken from the anatomy along the outer surface and a device is selected based on the resulting measurement, the arch measurement of which is 1-2 mm smaller than the measurement according to the anatomy.

26. (NEW) An odontological device according to claim 16, wherein said upper side outer wall extends essentially above the gum line also in the area of the third and the fourth tooth.

27. (NEW) A series of devices according to claim 23, wherein in the largest device of the series, the length of said arch is at least of approx. 38 mm.